IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace claims 93-95 and 118 with new rewritten claims 93-95 and 118 as follows below. A marked-up version of amended claims 93-95 and 118 to show the changes made is attached hereto.

93(Once-amended). A monoclonal antibody which specifically recognizes (i) an interferon-gamma (IFN-γ) inducing protein, also known as IGIF and IL-18, having the following physiochemical properties or (ii) a variant thereof which has substantially the same physicochemical properties as the protein of (i) but has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 in which one or more amino acids are replaced with different amino acids, one or more amino acids are added to the N- or C-terminus of SEQ ID NO:2, or one or more amino acids at the N- or C-terminus of SEQ ID NO:2 are deleted:

(1) Molecular weight

19,000 ± 5,000 daltons on gel filtration and sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE);

(2) Isoelectric point (pI)

4.8 ± 1.0 on chromatofocusing;

(3) Biological activity

Inducing the interferon-γ production by immunocompetent cells; and

(4) Partial amino acid sequence

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Possessing a part of the whole of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein Xaa is Met or Thr.

94(Once-amended). A monoclonal antibody according to claim 93, wherein the amino acid sequence of the IGIF or IL-18 is encoded by a cDNA which hybridizes with a probe having the coding sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 at 60°C in a solution of 5 x SSPE, 5 x Denhardt's solution, 0.5% (w/v) sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), and 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA and after washing in 6xSSC.

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95(Once-amended). A monoclonal antibody according to claim 93, wherein said IGIF or IL-18 is obtainable from a mammal.

118(Once-amended). A monoclonal antibody specific to interferon-gamma (IFN-γ) inducing protein, also known as IGIF and IL-18.

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Please add new claim 119 as follows:

119(New). A monoclonal antibody according to claim 95, wherein said mammal is mouse.

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Add M2